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OCT 27 1954

TO : Secretary of State
Attention: Mr. Dennis A. Flinn
Director, Office of Security

FROM : Deputy Director, Plans

SUBJECT: Bruno KALNINS

1. It has recently come to our attention from a source considered usually reliable that subject, who is presently a resident of Stockholm, Sweden, intends to visit the United States to attend the Assembly of Captive European Nations in New York City on 7 November 1954. The above-mentioned usually reliable source also feels that in attending this Assembly, KALNINS would make his usual attempts to disrupt its effectiveness as well as the harmonious cooperation among emigres.

2. Our files contain derogatory information on the subject which we are transmitting herewith; this information has been obtained from documentary evidence as well as from sources considered usually reliable.

- a. In its war of liberation (1914-1918) the Latvian Army fought two occupying powers: the Germans and the Russians. In the latter part of this war Bruno KALNINS is said to have acted as an agitator attempting to sway Latvian soldiers to the Bolshevik Army.
- b. Inasmuch as Bruno KALNINS was the son of the speaker of the Latvian Parliament, Paul KALNINS, a very esteemed and honored Latvian, not only in his own country but in Europe as a whole, it may be reasonably assumed that his father's popularity was the main reason behind Bruno KALNIN's election to the Latvian Parliament as a senator in the early twenties. He remained a senator until 1928. However, it was no doubt his mother's, Berta KALNINS', influence as a member of the extreme left-wing of the Social Democratic Party in Latvia upon her son, Bruno KALNINS, which caused him also to become such a radical socialist that the Latvian people took it for granted that both he and his mother were, if not out and out Communists, at least sympathizers

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SECRET

- 2 -

and fellow travelers. The animosity of the Latvian people toward Bruno KALNINS and his mother Berta is evidenced by the fact that in the 1930's a parody of a popular song was quite the rage which ridiculed as well as accused the aforementioned two individuals of Communist sympathy and connection.

- c. In the late twenties (approximately 1928) Bruno KALNINS, still a member of the left-wing faction of the Social Democrats and still a senator in the Latvian Parliament, organized the so-called SSS Organization (Stradnieku Sports un Sargs: Workers Sport and Protector). A great number of Latvians were and still are absolutely certain that at that time--while Chief of the SSS--KALNINS was either directly in the employ of the Soviet Union or at least acted in their behalf.
- d. On 15 May 1934 Karlis Ulmanis with the aid of General Janis Balodis and Alfreds Bercins executed a coup d'etat in Latvia and gave as the reason for this coup the fact that between the pro-Communist SSS and the pro-Fascist PERNOMONISTI as well as the numerous grafters within the Latvian Democratic Government the country was not only doomed to go into bankruptcy but also on the verge of being sold to the Soviet Union or Nazi Germany, whichever of these latter two would be able to outsmart the other.
- e. Alfreds Bercins, having been placed in charge of security, was instrumental in jailing KALNINS, at the same time raiding his headquarters, which disclosed a great amount of pro-Communist literature, Russian-manufactured weapons, and great amounts of Latvian as well as Russian currency. In addition, indications were found that KALNINS was preparing to overthrow the Latvian Government by force with the support of the Soviet Union on some date later than the Ulmanis coup of 15 May 1934; as a result of the coup, Ulmanis of course foiled any such possibility. Having served approximately two years in jail, KALNINS was deported from Latvia and apparently through Finland and Sweden finally located himself in Norway where he supposedly joined the Norwegian Communist Party. As a representative of this party KALNINS is said to have been sent to Spain where he became this party's representative to the Communist Government of Spain during the Spanish Civil War.
- f. Subsequent to this, until June 1940, there is no information available regarding KALNINS or his activities.
- g. On 14 June 1940 when the Russians occupied Latvia, KALNINS suddenly appeared on the scene as the Political Commissar or so-called POLITRUK of the Latvian Army which was immediately

SECRET

SECRET

- 3 -

rendered completely inactive and placed under full Soviet control. In this position KALNINS was instrumental in the following:

- (1) Executing orders from the Russian authorities concerning the Latvian Army.
 - (2) Supervision of political reliability and other phases pertaining to all members of the Latvian Army.
 - (3) Made numerous speeches, extolling the greatness of the Soviet Union which were all readily published by the pro-Russian Latvian newspaper Cina.
 - (4) Said to have furnished the Russians a complete roster of Latvian officers both on active service or in the reserves, which identified those officers whose political reliability toward the Soviet Union was questionable. As many of these officers as could be located by the occupying Soviet authorities were either imprisoned or deported.
- h. KALNINS' postwar claim that his role of Political Commissar of the Latvian Army was accepted by him as a possible means of aiding the Latvian people, especially since he had been requested to do this by General Balodis, and his claim that his position as Political Commissar was only of a six weeks duration both appear contrary to fact. The Latvian Army under Soviet domination existed for a period of three months during which time KALNINS was Political Commissar. Subsequently, this Army as such was disbanded; however, a number of soldiers and officers were automatically transferred into the regular Russian Army. Having been relieved of his duties as Political Commissar--merely because of the lack of a Latvian Army--KALNINS became a lecturer at the University of Riga where he lectured on the subjects of Marxism, Leninism, and how these theories are successfully applied in and for the glory of the Soviet Union.
- i. KALNINS' whereabouts during the German occupation of Latvia (1941 to 1945) can not be established with accuracy. However, upon cessation of hostilities he began to rise in Sweden as a very influential Social Democrat and a Latvian who was engaged in assisting his fellow countrymen in that country providing they support his pretensions of becoming one of the leading Latvian emigre personalities. His connection with various Latvian emigre organizations stems merely from the fact that since his father's death, Bruno KALNINS inherited the position of leader of the Social Democrats, in which position he had to supply and approve the Social Democrat representatives to Latvian emigre organizations.

SECRET

SECRET

- 4 -

Past as well as present opponents of KALNINS, especially Alfreds Bernins, are the victims of vicious slander heaped upon them by KALNINS through numerous letters to influential persons and through a Latvian newspaper published in Sweden which he controls.

- J. The majority of Latvians outside of their home country are both amazed and puzzled by the immensity of power and influence which KALNINS possesses in his dealings and his relationship with the Swedish Government. In part, that is explained by the fact that the Swedish Government is dominated by the Social Democrats. Some Latvians are certain that KALNINS derives his power from Communist interests. The latter belief is substantiated in part by the following:
- (1) Recently KALNINS and two of his supporters, one of whom, Mintauts Cakste, is a relative by marriage, proceeded to a recent emigre conference in London without the apparent sponsorship of any one particular organization.
 - (2) KALNINS has no visible means of support.
 - (3) The former Latvian Minister to Belgium, Valters, a staunch supporter of KALNINS, has offered to cover all expenses of any Latvian emigre of any stature who would be willing to proceed to the United Nations Assembly, for the purpose of achieving further recognition of Latvia as an independent country, providing such emigre permit Valters to insert his views in any written memorandums or correspondence and providing such emigre follow Valters' dictation.
3. In view of the adverse effect KALNINS visit to the United States may have upon the Assembly of Captive European Nations, this Agency would appreciate being advised of the action taken in this case as soon as possible.

cc: The Commissioner
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Attn: Mr. Raymond T. Farrell

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